

Conversation with approximately 77 year old black male, Florida (Transcription)

W197 <77M?> <unintelligible text>

<unintelligible text> is a very frail, elderly looking, tired, old man. He claims to be seventy-seven years old, although this could be argued: I believe that he is in his 80's.

I met <unintelligible text> when I was quite young. He has been working for my family for about twelve years. He has always been a friend of the family and was most delighted to participate in this project. He seemed to be elated that I even asked him! He was most willing to talk and help in any way. He loves to discuss his many experiences.

From, listening to his speech one could quickly assume that he was an elderly black speaker. He is one of eight children, born to parents who made their living mainly as farmers. He led a normal childhood, all things taken into consideration. He definitely experienced things in his days that one would not expect or see in the 1970's. He has worked very hard all of his life and never achieved anything the easy way. He has always made a living from menial jobs, mostly farming, and outdoor type things.

<unintelligible text> is from a low socio-economic class and has never had any type of formal education. Consequently, he can not read or write anything but his name. Given an opportunity, I think he would have done well in school because he has the capability. I believe that he would have been able to go further in life if things would have been different for him.

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<unintelligible text> is like everyone else. He has very definite likes and dislikes and readily expresses them: One of his main dislikes is people who don't work: I suppose that he feels that he worked his way through life and everyone else should too.

<unintelligible text> remains very active and he contributes his longevity to the fact that he has worked all of his life. <unintelligible text>

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(O.K. How are you today <unintelligible text>) Fine, how you? (Fine, gosh I haven't seen you in a long time.) Well, I don know, I thought maybe ya'll had done fagot me, ya see. (No, we didn't forget ya...you been takin it easy?) Oh yeah, I been takin it pretty easy. (That's good!) (How do you like stayin home from work?) Well, I don't like it, but, I gotta do it, so (yeah) I, I guess I jus well a like it. (Yeah) (It's been pretty slow aroun town every where..hasen't it?) Yeah, it show is. (Yeah) Yhad alot a snow too. That's sompin I ain't never seen befo. (Yeah, did you see the snow?) Show did! (I couldn't believe it. We were standing in the kitchen and um, and my dad opened the door, and he started screaming, and he said, told my mom to come outside, and he said, "Come on outside, you won't believe this!" ...And you know my mom's from New York so she's seen snow alot.. and um I've never seen it because I was born here, and I was really surprized, and we were pretty excited.) Well, I was bone in Flada, bu now up there at my home, where I was bone at see, (Where were you born?) Uh, Madison, Flada, you know up towads Tallehasee. (Yeah, I've been through there when we go to my grandmother's. You know my grandmother..) Yeah (lives..) Yeah, Yeah (in Mobile) Ya go right through der (Yeah) and uh, so we was, we was ya know sittin in hea lookin at the T.V. and the la, the girl 'cross the street over der, she had ha car paked in frona my douh, an so she kepa blowin

hon see, (Yeah) an I wen to the douh, see, see who was it. (Yeah) An when I got to the douh, she say, ya'll come out jea, snowin.(M-hmmm) An I went, we went out der an looked, dat's firs time I eva seen you know, real snow. (Yeah) I seen pictures (Yeah, Yeah) but that's firs time I seen real snow. (Yeah, I think it was a surprize to everybody in Daytona.) Yeah, said it snowed further on down to Miami. (Yeah) That's what I heard. (I think we're in for a pretty big winter.) Oh Yeah! (Yeah) (Lookes like you lost a few plants out in the yard.) Yeah, I los um pracla all of em. Ba, I got a few caved up. (Yeah, I saw) on the poch and dat's all. I gots stat all ova new again. (Yeah, well maybe you're gonna have to get some new plants and plant em now.) I will havta git some now. She love plants so good, jew gotta bring me some mo...(Yeah) I gotta buy some a sompin. (Yeah, well if ya would have told me I would have brought ya some....I didn't even think about it!) Well, ba l'ont wanem now. (Huh?) Ain't no need a plantin em yet. (Yeah, let's wait till it gets a little bit warmer...) You right (and then we'll get some.) Oh yeah, yeah (Well, let's see--how old are you now <unintelligible text>) Two Seben--I will be the twen thir of Ap (How old?) Sebenty-Seben. The twen thir of April is my birday. (You're gonna be seventy-seven?) Sebenty Seben. (Well, I've known you for a long time... I didn't ever know how old you were...and you grew up in umm..Quincy?) Madison (Madison)

Madison, Flada. (That's where you were born?) Bone and raised. (Well, did you go to school there..or) Yeah (You went to um, that's where you started out school?) Yeah, that's all the where I went to school, right der. (In um Madison?) M-hmmm (Were the school houses real old? Were they alot different from they are, from how they are now?) Oh Yeah! Jus a lil ol uh, well I tell ya what..it was a church der (M-hmmm) and uh, had a some kina lika Mason Hall te (M-hmmm) an dey had school in the Mason Hall. (M-hamm)

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Dat's what dey done me. (Were there...) jusa lil woodin frame buildin (Yeah) dat's all, jus one teacher, teacher. (Were there alot of kids at the school?) Oh Yeah! An he teach, he teach 'em from firs grade up ta, t, foughth..I think (Yeah) M-hummm. (Do you remember very much, do you remember goin to school there?) Show.' Show I 'member from when I stated up until I finished. (You do?) Yeah (Did your sisters and brothers go there too?) All of 'em went der. (How many brothers and sisters did you have?) Well, my mother had eight chiren, seben boys and one girl. (Boy!) Cuz two of 'em, two of 'em died. I mean ya know dey didn't get a chance to go to school...(M-hmm) dey died small. (Yeah) Two the boys (Yeah) and mother brothers, des one died le me see...las jere wansn't it? (Spearkers wife--M-hmmm) and den one died las jere, (wife-the year before) an one died befo dat (M-hmmm) an den, den notha, le me see... der's two, der's three die...see one died befo dat. (What about your sister?) Well she, she live up in Lake City. (Oh!) (Yeah, you went up there to see her...) Yeah (a few times didn't

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you?) One, one time on my, my vacation. (Yeah, I remember when you went up there.) M-hmmm (Do you remember your dad at all?) Yeah (You, you remember your dad?) Oh Yeah! (What um kina work did your mom do?) Fahm (Your mom was...) My mother was a mid-wife, ba we fa...I was raised on a fahm. (Do you remember workin on the farm?) Yeah, show! Plow de mule 'till he be white as a sheet. Ugh, dat's all I was raised up on, de fahm! (What did you do on the farm?) (I've see, I've never you know really been on a farm.) We plant, we plantid all dif kinds of stuff, see like uh cotton, corn, and uh, potatoes, peanuts, uh, all kind stuff like dat we plant on de fahm. (Did you usta hunt?) Oh Yeah! Dat's where I learned how ta trap at. (What's, I don't, what's trap...is that where you catch all those...) coons-n-things. (How do you catch them?) De uh, I tol ya daddy, he ask me las night, said yo husband was goin, said he see a path, he gon set de trap in de path. (Yeah) So I tol 'em, I saida, he said, but he waddin gonna bait de trap. (M-hmmm) I said, well how he gon catch a a coon in uh, in uh path, if he don bait it? He say I'on know, he say he jes put de

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trap in de path, maybe he'll step into it someday. So I tol 'em, I said, well you tell him, I said, if he if he, he see de path where he go up and down de path, he don need no bait. (M-hummmmm) but he take en uh sticks and put 'em jus 'bout a foot apaht (M-hummm) jes lay 'em right crost the path, two sticks, an den in de middle of dem sticks, dig em a lil hole and bury his trap right in the center of the middle. (M-hummm) Well, when de coon come up der he, he, he,

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anywhere he walk dat pat, when he git to them sticks, he gon step on em see. He step on like...hea the sticks hea. Well, when he come up he step over hea or over de middle hea, den ova dis stick, and the trap hea, when he step in der (M-hmmm) he step in de trap. (Oh that's...) Which a way he goin, you catch 'em an anyway. Sa caught Shannon like dat, twice. (You did!) Yeah (hummmmmmm) (Well...) but, reason I caught ha, see ummm Jerry was der den, an uh I tol Jerry, he wanna see how I set it see, so I tol Jerry ta, no I say, don you go down der cuz Shannon gon follow me. He said uh you stay up der and keep ha in the truck. So he tol me he gon keep Shannon in de truck, but he didn't see. Soon as I left he come on down der where I was at see. He uh, I say where Shannon? He say, I got ha in de truck. So well, I we, I gon show 'em how I set de trap. Me and him walked along an I wadin hadly furtha from hea to yo cah fo Shannon halled. She dun, dun come roun and got on my tracks see, set my track and found where I was at and step in that trap...took three of us to get ha out of der. (I didn't know...) (Speaker's wife- Where is Shannon at now?) (She's, um, She's been goin down to the farm with my dad...some She, She's um, in fact I think she's down there today. She's still, she's really a great dog...she'll never change. She's a good watch dog and she won't let anybody near anybody!) No sa, I tell you, I use ta, use ta ask me, say ain't ya started ta stay down hea by yaself? I say no, no long as Shannon down hea. (hummmmm) Cuz, I don't care where I, I went (She loved you!) Right

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track fa track (she did) right behind me. An, an if I go somewhere, like I be weedin out pots or sompin uh like dat,